

January 26, 1976

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: OK. The.... Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature. I'd like to ask Senator Swigart a question about his bracketing motion.

SENATOR SWIGART: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Swigart, again your motion revolves around LB 782. Suppose that bill does not emerge from the Committee. Are you going to support LB 432?

SENATOR SWIGART: I would be willing to unbracket 432 and discuss it and vote it one way or the other.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Would you be willing to support it?

SENATOR SWIGART: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature. Senator Swigart is trying to delay what he could try to do today. His mind is not going to change regardless of what happens on LB 782. There are times when I think we ought to be very direct and forthright about what we have in our minds. Senator Swigart, like all the other Omaha Senators, has great pressure brought to bear on him. Before you talk about ignoring the problems in Douglas County,... Senator Mahoney gave what some will say was an eloquent plea for leaving status quo just like it is in Douglas County. Alright, leave Douglas County alone. They have a problem with their hospital. What are they trying to get the state to do now? Take it over as a regional center.

In the schools...when I was down here trying to get the Legislature to enact legislation to do away with segregated & discriminatory education the Legislature choose not to act. The Omaha Senators, some of them, told you "Don't act". Now what are they doing? They're down here telling you to pick up the tab for the debt that they created. They have a bill before the Legislature, which they hope you will adopt, to allow them to create a new reserve force of officer. Included in that bill is the requirement that the state pay them compensation if they get injured. Now why, on the one hand are they going to tell you to keep your nose out until they do all of the botching, blundering and messing up that they can do, then come down here and tell you that you have a moral obligation to pick up the tab, pay the debt, or bail them out.

For once you ought to look past my personality, some of you ought to look past my color and you ought to look at the merits of this bill. Put yourself in the position of a responsible lawmaker who is supposed to upgrade law enforcement.

The standards for law enforcement officials ought to be set by the Legislature or whatever lawmaking body is involved. There is no way to properly delegate that responsibility to a sheriff. The military, the quasi military or para-military should always be under civil authority. You don't let the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces ... well the President is Commander in Chief, but he can't declare a war. So you understand what I'm saying. He is under a civilian force, the main general. The FBI Director is under civilian authority. The CIA Director is appointed by